

KAPOK

19 February 1953

MEMORANDUM TO: PRAPTOLD

FROM:

SUBJECT: HTGRUBBY Progress Report, 15 January - 14 February 1953

1. Program Content

The major topic stressed during this period was the arrest of the nine doctors with the sidelights of Nazi-Communist similarities, Soviet purges of the thirties, and impending future purges which threatened all Communists. The Iron Curtain features stressed news items revealing the "scapegoat" tactics of the Communist regimes. Other topics stressed included President Eisenhower's inauguration and the hope it gave to satellite liberation, the weekly appeal to various groups within Albania and the biographical denunciations of leading Communist figures.

2. Transmission

HTGRUBBY transmitted daily over this period and the aircraft was able to fulfill about 80% of its scheduled broadcast flights. The route of flight is an arc approximately 500 miles from Tirana since this distance is technically optimum for reflection of the radio wave into the Albanian area, however, the low power output of the transmitter imposes limitations as is evidenced by the reception tests reported below.

3. Reception and Effect in Albania

A three day reception test monitored in Brindisi on the 28th, 29th and 30th of January revealed that HTGRUBBY was not audible at any time. The evening broadcasts made from the airplane on the 28th and 29th of January also were not audible. RNLUMPIT notified [] at the HTNEIGH meeting in Rome that he had received word that HTGRUBBY was heard in London several times in January. Although RNLUMPIT did not specify just at what time of the day HTGRUBBY was heard, it is believed that it was heard in the evening when the angle of reflection of the radio waves from the Athens base (Commo) increases enormously. [] has discussed the complete lack of reception of HTGRUBBY in Brindisi with the technicians (Commo), who pointed out that according to the propagation curves, HTGRUBBY should be audible in Albania during the morning and afternoon broadcasts. However, they suggested waiting to hear from Apple before continuing discussions. Throwoff/2 was explicitly asked to report on reception of HTGRUBBY, but as yet no word has been received from Apple on this matter. Neither has there been any reply to the cable sent to Paris asking to interrogate Miss Leha, secretary of the French Legation in Tirana, now on home leave, concerning HTGRUBBY.

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An optimistic note was sounded when Commo informed [] that they expect to have their new 1500 watt transmitters in operation in about three months. It is hoped that this will solve the problem of HTGRUBBY penetrating into Albania, especially during the troublesome winter months.

Note: As this report was about to go out, Apple sent in a message that they were able to hear HTGRUBBY clearly at 1230 GMT of the 46 meter band. It is not certain but presumably HTGRUBBY is not clearly audible at the other five transmissions including the aircraft broadcast. Apple also stated that they were unable at present to give us information as to what effect HTGRUBBY has on the people, but that they would try to do so later.

4. Organisation and Personnel

On his recent trip to Rome, [] proposed, and [] agreed, that HTGRUBBY staff commence writing a booklet dealing with the history of Albania from 1939 to the present, emphasizing the tremendous harm done by Communism. The pamphlet will be written in simple Albanian and will have the primary purpose of orienting persons of Albanian extraction in the Western World so that they will better comprehend the situation in Albania and be able to read the HTNEIGH newspaper with greater understanding. In order to help in this task, Thanes Gega, Albania's foremost historian and a frequent contributor to SCCRIND and QKPALING was hired to begin gathering material there in Italy for this pamphlet. Gega will remain in Rome at a salary of \$150. per month until he has been security checked and obtained a visa for Greece at which time he will be added on as a regular member of HTGRUBBY. [] also interviewed about 15 of the most able Albanians in exile in Italy and selected three of them to replace members of HTGRUBBY who are to leave for the United States in the near future. They are as follows:

a. Imex Shara (Agrarian) will replace Alexander Loring, who has received word that he will most likely obtain his visa in April. Shara will be sent to Athens as soon as and if the Italian authorities free him of a misdemeanor charge.

b. Niko Papallilo (Independent) has a good commercial background and speaks Greek as well as Albanian. Papallilo will be valuable in helping [] with some of the work now done by [] such as administration of the welfare funds, as well as matters involving contacting Greek hospital and state officials.

c. Lec Shilaku (Peasant's Party) who will be sent to Greece when Burhan Juka is ready to leave for the United States.

Security clearances will be asked for the above individuals by []

[] approved of [] transfer to Rome at the end of February in his capacity of member of the Advisory Board of HTNEIGH and possibly as a translator and photo editor of QKPALING until he is called by SCCRIND.

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Since it will not be possible for [] to be added on to
the propaganda staff, [] has agreed that [] will aid []
in his duties whenever his present work permits, and in addition []
[] will write scripts for HTGRUBEY from time to time.

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